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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

JOHN A. SMALLWOOD, SECRETARY

The seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society was held Monday, 6 April, through Sunday, 12 April, 1998, at the Regal Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, in joint session with the American Ornithologists' Union, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Colonial Waterbird Society, the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Raptor Research Foundation. The WOS having met previously with the AOU and COS in Montana in 1994, the current joint meeting shall be known as the Second North American Ornithological Conference. The Local Committee, co-chaired by Bette Loiselle and John Blake, included J. Katheryne Aldas, Ted Anderson, Sandra Arango, Nevin Aspinwall, Gilbert Barrantes, Paul Bauer, Louise Bradshaw, Carol Bourne, Godfrey Bourne, Lorena Calvo, Bruce Carr, Chris Collins, Walt Crawford, Michelle Crenshaw, Leslie Drewel, Rodney Dyer, Tibisay Escalona, Jeanne Fair, Jaqueline Goerck, Catherine Graham, Erpur Hansen, Jim Hunt, Seth Isenberg, Ivan Jimenez, Dave Klostermann, Randall Korotev, Michelle Land, Michael Macek, James Malone, Jaun Martinez, Patrick Osborne, Jorge Perez, Rachel Polster, Luis Miguel Renjifo, P. Mick Richardson, Bob Ricklefs, Grace Servat, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, and Carolina Valdespino. The meeting was co-hosted by the University of Missouri at St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Saint Louis Zoo, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the World Bird Sanctuary, Saint Louis University, and Washington University.

The Council met from 09:01 to 15:46 on Tuesday, 7 April, in Jefferson Room A of the Conference Center Area at the Regal Riverfront Hotel. At that time registration had already exceeded 1200. On Tuesday evening there was an informal dinner for Council, Fellows, and Board Members of the participating societies at the Top of the Riverfront restaurant, followed by an icebreaker reception for all in the Grand Ballroom.

The scientific program was organized by the Organizing Committee, which was chaired by Jeff Brawn and also included Ted Anderson, John Blake, Godfrey Bourne, Walt Crawford, John Faaborg, Jeanne Fair, John Kricher, Michelle Land, Bette Loiselle, Michael Macek, Robert Ricklefs, Scott Robinson, Kimberly Smith, and John Zimmerman. The scientific program comprised a total of 695 presentations, including four plenary lectures, 54 presentations in nine symposia, 490 papers in 49 general sessions, and 147 poster presentations. In addition, there were 10 workshops and one roundtable.

The opening session on Wednesday convened in the Grand Ballroom at 08:00 with welcoming remarks from Mike Scott, President of the Cooper Ornithological Society, and Ned Johnson, President of the American Ornithologists' Union, who introduced Chancellor Blanche Touhill of the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Following a welcome from Chancellor Touhill, Mike Scott introduced Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Following Peter Raven's introductory remarks, Wilson Ornithological Society President Edward H. Burtt, Jr., introduced the second annual Margaret Morse Nice Plenary Award recipients, Ellen Ketterson and Val Nolan, Jr. The title of their lecture was "Studying birds: one species at a time."

Later that evening, the conferees were treated to the Flight Night Reception at the Saint Louis Zoo. Other receptions in the days to follow included the Student/Society Officer Mixer for students, post-docs, society officers, fellows, board and council members, and all other conferees, held in the Palm Court Lobby of the Regal Riverfront Hotel on Thursday, prior to the Poster Session and Reception held in the South Exhibit Hall. On Friday, those in attendance were the guests of the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UM-St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden for a Tropical Night Reception at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Field trips during the week included excursions to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Duck Creek Conservation Area, Shaw Arboretum, Tyson Research Center, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, Forest Park-Kennedy Forest, Tower Grove Park, Eagle Bluffs, a prairie chicken lek, Bradford Farm, St. Charles County-Busch Conservation Area, Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, and the World Bird Sanctuary.

On Saturday evening, following a social hour, the conferees assembled in the Grand Ballroom for the annual banquet. At the end of a satisfying meal, Bette Loiselle welcomed all, and introduced the Organizing Committee and society representatives. The following Wilson Ornithological Society awards were presented:

MARGARET MORSE NICE MEDALS (for the WOS plenary lecture)

Ellen Ketterson and Val Nolan, Jr., "Studying birds: one species at a time."

EDWARDS PRIZE (for the best major article in volume 109 of *The Wilson Bulletin*)

Richard H. Yahner, "Long-term dynamics of bird communities in a managed forested landscape." Wilson Bull. 109:595–613.

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES AWARD

Jennifer A. Jacoby, "The genetics of reintroduced populations of an endangered bird, *Falco peregrinus*."

MARGARET MORSE NICE AWARD

David R. Fouts, "Towards a viable population of Purple Martins along the lower Columbia River: a study of artificial nesting habitat preferences."

PAUL A. STEWART AWARDS

Anna-Marie Barber, "Migration of passerines in interior Alaska."

Matthew A. Etterson, "Migratory status of Loggerhead Shrikes in southwest Oklahoma."

Andrew A. Kinsey, "Temporal and spatial variation in abundance of migratory birds at an inland stopover site on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia."

Paul G. Rodewald, "Habitat use and selection by Neotropical migratory songbirds during migration."

Bonnie E. Stout, "Winter courtship and pair formation in grebes."

Selection committee for the Margaret Morse Nice Medals—Edward H. Burtt, Jr. (chair), John Kricher, and William E. Davis, Jr.; Edwards Prize—Charles Blem (chair), Robert Beason, Larry Clark, and Sara Morris; for the Fuertes, Nice, and Stewart Awards—Daniel Klem, Jr. (chair), Judith M. Rhymer, and Richard Stiehl. The Wilson Ornithological Society Travel Award and the Alexander Wilson Prize for the best student presentation were not awarded this year. Instead, student travel and presentation awards were decided jointly by the ad hoc Student Awards Committee, consisting of John Faaborg (chair), Kevin Brown, Carla Cicero, Maura Eagen, T. Luke George, Shannon Hackett, Patricia Hall, Eileen Kirsch, Daniel Klem, Rolph R. Koford, John Kricher, Elissa M. Landre, Mark Stanbeck, Kim Sullivan, Doris Watt, David F. Westneat, H. Herbert Wilson, and Petra Bohall Wood.

FIRST BUSINESS MEETING

The first business meeting was called to order by President Burtt at 12:19 on Wednesday, 8 April, in the Missouri Ballroom. Secretary Smallwood then summarized what had transpired at Tuesday's Council meeting, remarking that over 1200 people had pre-registered for the Second North American Ornithological Conference, including 450 students, and that total registration would likely increase to about 1500. Secretary Smallwood informed those in attendance that the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Library needed to reduce its inventory of back issues of *The Wilson Bulletin*, and directed interested persons to contact the WOS website for more information. He then expressed the Society's gratitude to Bill Lunk, who had decided to resign after 40 years of service as the chair of the Library Committee. Secretary Smallwood highlighted the accomplishments of the Undergraduate Outreach Committee during the past year, under the leadership of Ernie Willoughby, including posting the "Guide to Graduate Programs in Ornithology" on the WOS webpage, submitting the report on undergraduate ornithology courses in North America (co-authored by Jed Burtt and Herb Wilson) to *The Wilson Bulletin*, another workshop on teaching ornithology (organized by Jed Burtt), and the production of an undergraduate ornithology lab manual (edited by Jed Burtt and John Faaborg). As Ernie had decided to retire from his chairmanship, those assembled offered him a round of applause for his contributions to the WOS. Secretary Smallwood then summarized the Council's discussion of the Conservation Committee report submitted by chair Jerry Jackson, which focused on the limitations of CITES. Next, he announced that Bob Beason had been re-elected to his second year as editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, and Bob was commended for successfully taking over the reins. Secretary Smallwood then noted that membership in the Society currently stood at 2365, including 294 student and 519 life members. The 1999 annual meeting will be held 10–13 June at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, at the invitation of Herb Wilson. Because of the June meeting date, Colby College will be able to provide affordable dormitory accommodations, and it is hoped that student attendance will be high. The 2000 annual meeting will be held in Galveston, Texas, from 26 (or 27) to 30 April, sponsored by the Houston Audubon Society and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory; Dwight Peake will be the local host. Still in the early planning stages, the 2001 annual meeting will be held at the University of Arkansas sometime in April. The secretary then asked those assembled to stand in recognition of the following WOS members who had passed away since we last met: John J. Christian (Starlight, PA), John T. Emlen, Jr. (Madison, WI), Hildegard Howard (Los Angeles, CA), Margaret H. Hundley (Ellsworth, ME), Helen Lapham (Rock Island, RI), Mrs. Clark Miller (Inwood, WV), Laurie Muehlbach (Fresno, CA), Martin H. Moynihan (Canal Zone, Panama), Graham Netting (Rector, PA), Peter C. Petersen, Jr. (Davenport, IA), Thomas G. Scott (Fort Collins, CO), James B. Schuler (McClellanville, SC), Allen W. Stokes (Logan, UT), Miklos D. F. Udvardy (Sacramento, CA), Charles M. Weise (Milwaukee, WI), Nathaniel R. Whitney (Rapid City, SD), and Merrill Wood (Thompson, PA).

The treasurer's report was then offered by Doris Watt, after which Bob Beason delivered the editor's report.

Jerome A. Jackson, chair, presented the report of the nominating committee, which also included Mary H. Clench, Richard N. Conner, and William E. Davis, Jr., offering the following slate of candidates: President, Edward H. Burtt, Jr.; First Vice-president, John C. Kricher; Second Vice-president, William E. Davis, Jr.; Secretary, John A. Smallwood; Treasurer, Doris J. Watt; and Members of Council for 1998–2001, Jonathan L. Atwood and James L. Ingold.

The first business meeting was adjourned at 12:51.

SECOND BUSINESS MEETING

The second business meeting was called to order by First Vice-president John Kricher at 12:05, Friday, 10 April, in the Missouri Ballroom. As the first item of business, he asked Secretary Smallwood to read aloud the following:

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Wilson Ornithological Society held its annual meeting in St. Louis, our nation's historic gateway to the west, in an historic joint conference with the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Raptor Research Foundation, and the Colonial Waterbird Society, under the appellation "1998 North American Ornithological Conference"; and

RECOGNIZING that the Committee on the Scientific Program, consisting of members of each of the participating societies and skillfully chaired by Jeff Brawn, organized a remarkable schedule of oral and poster presentations into a momentous number of general sessions, symposia, and workshops; and

RECOGNIZING that the Committee on Local Arrangements, under the able direction of co-chairs Bette Loiselle and John Blake, through the efforts of members of the Department of Biology and International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Saint Louis Audubon Society, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the World Bird Sanctuary, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Washington University, Saint Louis University, and McKendree College, provided an outstanding conference venue at the foot of the historic Gateway Arch National Monument; and

WHEREAS those attending experienced a most enjoyable and informative conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilson Ornithological Society commend the Committee on the Scientific Program, the Committee on Local Arrangements, and the local sponsors for an especially successful and rewarding meeting in Saint Louis.

The motion to accept this resolution was made by Ted Davis and seconded by Sara Morris, after which it passed unanimously.

First Vice-president Kricher then recalled the report of the nominating committee to the floor. Jerome A. Jackson, chair, invited additional nominations from those assembled. Hearing none, Dick Banks moved and Dick Conner seconded that the nominations be closed. Dick Banks then moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for all offices. Following a second by Mary Clench, and the unanimous approval of those assembled, he did so.

The following resolutions were drafted by the 1998 North American Ornithological Conference Resolutions Committee, which included David Blockstein (chair), Amy-Mathews Amos, Tom Bancroft, Mary Beth Beetham, Rebekah Creshkoff, Jerry W. Davis, Bill Evans, Kimball Garrett, Frank Gill, Jim Greaves, Evan Hirsche, Joe Jehl, Daniel Klem, Jr., Suellen Lowry, Kathy Molina, Ellen Paul, C. J. Ralph, Martin Raphael, Stan Senner, Kim Smith, Pepper Trail, and Gerald Winegrad, and were presented by David Blockstein. As a group, they passed unanimously.

EXXON VALDEZ RESTORATION RESERVE FUND

WHEREAS in the court settlement following the Exxon Valdez oil spill, a trust fund was established to provide for restoration and enhancement of resources injured as a result of the spill and a trustee council was created to oversee the allocation of that money with a mission to return the environment to a "healthy, productive, world-renowned ecosystem"; and

WHEREAS the impact of the spill was primarily on the marine ecosystem and its inhabitants, including Common Murres (*Uria aalge*), Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*), Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*), Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.), and other seabirds; and

WHEREAS more than half of the money available for restoration has been spent on land purchases to protect valuable fish and wildlife habitats, not all of which will directly improve the marine resources damaged by the spill; and

WHEREAS the Trustee Council previously established a Restoration Reserve account to provide funds for restoration activities after the last Exxon payment in 2001; and

WHEREAS in adopting the restoration plan, the Trustee Council specifically recognized that monitoring recovery, understanding the spill's effects on the ecosystem and undertaking needed restoration activities "on an ecosystem basis" will extend well into the future; and

WHEREAS by 2001, the reserve fund is expected to total about $140 million, including interest; and

WHEREAS the Trustee Council will make a decision in 1998 on the allocation of that fund; and

WHEREAS scientific research is necessary for an understanding of the northern Gulf of Alaska ecosystem, which has not been well studied (for example, there is a need for increased understanding of the interrelationships among seabird colonies and their dependence on poorly-studied forage fishes in the region); and

WHEREAS use of the information based on research is essential for protecting the marine resources of Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS only through continued research and monitoring will it be possible to determine the long-term effects of the spill and of the measures used to mitigate those effects; and

WHEREAS the chief scientist of the Trustee Council has proposed using the reserve fund to establish a permanent, adaptive, interdisciplinary research and monitoring program, which "would track, and eventually predict, ecosystem changes and provide a basis and mechanism for long-term restoration, enhance-

ment, and wise management of marine resources in the northern Gulf of Alaska";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society encourage the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council to (a) establish a permanent fund for competitive, peer-reviewed research and monitoring of the northern Gulf of Alaska ecosystem and (b) allocate all or nearly all of the restoration reserve fund for this purpose; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an ongoing marine conservation biology research and monitoring program should be based on the following core principles:

1. Research and monitoring should focus on conserving and recovering the living marine resources and biological diversity of the Gulf of Alaska, and should be coordinated with other federal and state marine research programs in Alaska, such as those in the Bering Sea, to leverage efforts and enhance the benefits of each.
2. Decisions on research and monitoring proposals should be based on a competitive scientific peer review process involving not only Alaskan scientists, but a mix of scientists throughout the United States with appropriate expertise in the various research topics to be considered. The best science results from involving the most appropriate scientists in all aspects of the process, and from basing funding decisions on emerging scientific and management questions. The resulting science should be of sufficient quality for publication in the best scientific journals.
3. The overall design of the long-term monitoring and research program should be reviewed by the National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, or other appropriate scientific bodies.
4. Research and monitoring should be ecosystem-oriented, designed and implemented to understand the processes and relationships governing marine ecosystem functioning, to enhance recovery of living marine resources that were harmed by the Exxon Valdez oil spill or are otherwise in decline, and to address emerging environmental problems and biodiversity loss in the Gulf of Alaska.
5. Research and monitoring should not be narrowly focused on maximizing certain resources for short-term economic gain, but should be broad-based and seek to understand how marine ecosystems function as a basis for management and conservation in the long run.
6. Use of indicator species is appropriate in some cases; however, in addition to studies on specific species, integrative research should be conducted to tie together information through modeling and other techniques to develop an understanding of processes affecting species on large geographic and temporal scales.
7. Research and monitoring projects should include long-term studies, allowing observation of environmental variation over decades to increase scientific understanding of ecosystem processes that vary over long time periods, and enhance our understanding of natural vs. human-caused environmental changes.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT, FOREST HEALTH AND ROADLESS AREAS

WHEREAS America's national forests are comprised of 156 separate forests, encompassing 25 percent of all federal public lands (200 million acres), providing essential habitat for many bird species and other biota, including a greater number of threatened and endangered species than on any other system of federally owned land; and

WHEREAS the remaining large, unfragmented, roadless areas provide particularly important and irreplaceable habitat for many species, and such areas are found almost exclusively on national forests and other public lands; and

WHEREAS many of America's national forests are overcut and fragmented due to excessive logging; and

WHEREAS few roadless areas are protected (for example, in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon and Washington, less than 8% of 722,000 acres of forested roadless areas are administratively protected); and

WHEREAS the Clinton Administration is attempting to implement policy to favor conservation based on the capacity of the land; and

WHEREAS elements of this policy include a proposed 18-month moratorium on logging in large roadless areas (greater than 5000 acres) in most national forests; and

WHEREAS the proposed moratorium is consistent with the recommendations of the Eastside Forest Scientific Society Panel (Interim protection for late-successional forests, fisheries and watersheds; The Wildlife Society Technical Review 94–2, 1994), in which the American Ornithologists' Union was a participant; and

WHEREAS there is considerable effort in Congress to oppose Administration policy and allow more logging under the guise of a so-called "forest health crisis"; and

WHEREAS the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society have each passed resolutions challenging the scientific basis of the "forest health crisis";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society support the efforts of Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck and the Clinton administration towards increasing conservation and protection of roadless areas in national forests; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society urge the Clinton ad-

ministration to extend these roadless area protections to all national forests and to roadless areas of 1000 acres or more; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society oppose Congressional attempts to increase logging of national forests under the guise of a "forest health crisis" and urge Congress to take steps to prevent loss and fragmentation of roadless areas.

FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCE

WHEREAS scientific knowledge is a necessary basis for effective management of natural resources; and

WHEREAS present knowledge of the natural resources of the United States is insufficient for many management objectives to be achieved; and

WHEREAS current federal funding for biodiversity and ecosystems research and monitoring (estimated at $460 million by the National Science and Technology Council) is inadequate to meet the needs of resource managers and decision makers; and

WHEREAS the proposed fiscal 1999 budget of $158 million for the Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey is less than its budget for fiscal 1994 ($164 million) before the 104th Congress imposed an 15% cut when BRD was an agency known as the National Biological Service; and

WHEREAS budget restrictions on BRD allow it to accomplish relatively few priorities identified by other agencies in the Interior Department, leaving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a list of some 300 unaddressed research needs, and have caused a 40% decrease in BRD maintenance activities and no new construction since fiscal 1994; and

WHEREAS the research budget of the U.S. Forest Service has remained essentially flat since a 5% recision in fiscal 1995 and research is now at about 7% of the agency budget rather than the 11% that has been traditional; and

WHEREAS neither President Clinton's 21st Century fund for research nor Senator Gramm's National Research Investment Act of 1998 (S. 1305) include science in the natural resource agencies and departments among their significant proposed increases in science funding; and

WHEREAS a 1998 report of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology ("Teaming with life: investing in science to understand and use America's living capital") recommends increases of up to $200 million annually (phased in over three years) for research, education, management and information infrastructure necessary to make sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society encourage the President and the Congress to significantly increase funding for natural resource science and related activities in agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey (particularly the Biological Resources Division), the U.S. Forest Service, and the proposed National Institute for the Environment (NIE) under the National Science Foundation.

IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WHEREAS the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) and the Izembek Lagoon (Izembek State Game Refuge) it encompasses, located on the Alaska Peninsula, is so important as wetland habitat for wildlife diversity that it was recognized as the first wetland site in the United States placed on the list of wetlands of international importance under the "Ramsar" Convention; and

WHEREAS the refuge and the lagoon are being considered for additional international recognition as a reserve of international importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network; and

WHEREAS the refuge provides habitat for numerous bird species, including a resident, non-migratory Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) population, approximately half the world population of the threatened Steller's Eider (*Somateria fischeri*), the entire Pacific Brant (*Branta bernicla*) population, and the entire population of Emperor Geese (*Chen canigica*); and

WHEREAS the refuge's Kinzarof Lagoon has the only significant eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula, which is a primary food source for numerous bird and fish species; and

WHEREAS two identical bills, S. 1092 and H.R. 2259, are presently before Congress, each of which has been passed by committees in their respective houses, which would direct construction of a road that would traverse seven miles of the Izembek Wilderness and four more miles of the refuge, and bisect an isthmus between the Izembek and Kinzarof Lagoons; and

WHEREAS the bills suspend the application to the road project of all environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and all federal provisions to protect wetlands and to require environmental impact assessments; and

WHEREAS the proposed road through this fragile tundra is likely to: degrade wilderness values; increase silt loads to the lagoon and/or decrease fresh-water flow to the lagoon, which could affect eelgrass growth and production; disturb wildlife, including the many birds in the area and result in increased pressure from future human disturbance; expose the Izembek Lagoon to waterborne contaminants from shipping accidents or potential offshore oil development; and

WHEREAS Congress designated 95% of the INWR as wilderness in 1980, and the Wilderness Act prohibits the building of permanent roads within any wilderness areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society urge Congress to reject S. 1092

and H.R. 2259 and to oppose any other effort to build a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

NORTHEAST NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE

WHEREAS the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve ("the Reserve") is a low-lying coastal region comprising nearly 4.6 million acres of nearly undisturbed foothill tundra and wet tundra; and

WHEREAS the Reserve encompasses the largest stretch of low-lying, coastal plain tundra and foothill tundra in Alaska, and perhaps in North America; and

WHEREAS the ecosystems and habitat represented in the Reserve are not found in protected areas in Alaska; and

WHEREAS numerous bird species are found in the Reserve, including the Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) and Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*), which nest only in this region in the United States, the threatened Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*) and Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), molting waterfowl, and large populations of many shorebirds and waterbirds; and

WHEREAS the Colville River Special Area of the Reserve has been recognized as one of the most significant regional habitats for raptors in North America, including nearly 90 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), which have only recently returned to this area following the DDT-caused decline in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS The Bureau of Land Management is considering an Integrated Activity Plan for the Reserve, with five alternative courses of action, each making a certain amount of the Reserve available for gas and oil extraction activities; and

WHEREAS the Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing each of these alternatives is inadequate in that it fails to evaluate adequately the unique ecological and biological features of the reserve, and fails to address available literature on the response of bird populations to various types and levels of development; and

WHEREAS there has not been adequate surveying of the presence and abundance of the bird species found in the region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society recommend that the Bureau of Land Management defer the selection of a management plan for the Reserve until basic surveys and research have been completed, or, if deferment is not possible, that the Bureau of Land Management select Alternative A, the "no action" alternative which will continue the current management and allow no oil or gas leases; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that whatever management plan is selected by the Bureau of Land Management, that it be implemented in such a manner as to include very specific safeguards, based upon scientific information, to protect the environment and the wildlife found within the Reserve.

THE PUBLIC LANDS FUNDING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS America's public lands, wildlife, fish, and plants are irreplaceable natural assets that belong to, and benefit, our entire nation; and

WHEREAS the ideals underlying the creation and protection of our parks, refuges, forests, and other national lands have been admired and emulated around the world; and

WHEREAS these public lands represent an investment in America through the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS more and more Americans are turning to our public lands for education, recreation, and the economic well being of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS ironically, at the same time that these assets are increasing in value, their vitality is threatened by inadequate funding and shortsighted investment in the agencies that care for them; and

WHEREAS the account in the federal budget that pays for the care and upkeep of our public lands (Function 300—Natural Resources and Environment) is slated to decrease over the next five years under the Balanced Budget Agreement; and

WHEREAS the financial condition of our public land and natural resource management agencies is in crisis and without significant increases to base funding over the next five years, these agencies and programs will be unable to protect and manage the resources entrusted to their care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society support the Public Lands Funding Initiative, including the following proposed funding increases that are based on data requested from the agencies, and reflect real need:

- The Fish and Wildlife Service, $710 million to operate the National Wildlife Refuge System, to implement the Endangered Species Act, and for migratory bird management.
- The National Park Service, $630 million for natural and cultural resource protection, park operations, and maintenance of physical infrastructure.
- The Bureau of Land Management, $125 million for wildlife, fisheries, and threatened and endangered species, to provide recreational opportunities, and for paleontology research. (Note: the request for BLM is well below needs for adequate stewardship of its 260 million acres. This request is based on amounts that could be used effectively with limited or no increases in staff.)
- The Forest Service, $618 million for Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants; Recreation; Wilderness; Road Obliteration and Maintenance; Invasive Species; Rangeland Management; and Research on Wildlife, Fish, Water and Air.
- The U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division, $185 million for biological research, re-

source monitoring, information transfer, and maintenance and operations of research laboratories, cooperative research units; and their equipment.

- The Land and Water Conservation Fund, at least $700 million (assuming the base does not include the additional $699 million in FY98) to achieve full funding for land acquisition needs in the four agencies and to revitalize the grants to states and local communities for recreation and open space needs.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SALTON SEA AS A SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT

WHEREAS the Salton Sea, the third largest interior saline lake in North America, formed by accidental water diversions from the Colorado River into southeastern California in 1905–6 and presently maintained by inflows of water imported for agricultural purposes, agricultural runoff, and freshwater river flows, has long been recognized as providing significant wetland habitat for a highly diverse array of migratory and breeding waterbird populations; and

WHEREAS recent surveys have revealed populations of up to 1.5 million Eared Grebes in midwinter (Jehl 1988), up to half of California's wintering White-faced Ibis (Shuford et al. 1996), and regional significance as an integral component of the Pacific Flyway for tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds (Page et al. 1992), waterfowl, and American White Pelicans, as well as significant breeding colonies of Double-crested Cormorants and Caspian Terns (K. Molina unpubl. data), nearly 40% of the nesting Black Skimmers (Collins and Garrett 1996), and by far the larger of only two breeding populations of Gull-billed Terns in western North America (Parnell et al. 1995); and

WHEREAS the Salton Sea has been documented to be of significant value as avian habitat from the time of its formation (see, for example, early studies reported by Grinnell 1908, Dawson 1923, Pemberton 1927, Miller & van Rossem 1929), and has retained this significance in the subsequent nine decades, with the Sea and its surrounding agricultural lands remaining a renowned birdwatching locality of national significance with over 350 species recorded and immense numbers of breeding, migrant, and wintering birds, in addition to unique post-breeding use by a variety of subtropical waterbirds; and

WHEREAS the Salton Sea represents a complex mosaic of habitats and land-use types, from saline lake waters to brackish and freshwater deltas resulting from both natural and imported (agricultural) water sources, and of state and federal wildlife refuges, agricultural areas, and geothermal developments, all with equally complex interactions and often competing interests; and

WHEREAS the State of California and surrounding regions have experienced significant losses of wetlands (Johnson and Jehl 1994), including coastal wetlands, interior wetlands (most notably the Colorado River delta and Tulare Lake basin), and interior saline lakes such as Owens Lake (Jehl 1994), making the Salton Sea, despite its "artificial" genesis, especially unique and important as de facto mitigation on a regional if not continental scale; and

WHEREAS significant colonies of ground-nesting colonial waterbirds and herons, as well as of the recently established Brown Pelican, have thrived during the 1990s, likely due in large measure to decreased levels of human recreational uses of key portions of the Salton Sea (Molina 1996); and

WHEREAS the Salton Sea has experienced high levels of eutrophication, salinization, and contamination, resulting in diminished water quality (Setmire et al. 1990); and

WHEREAS freshwater sources for the Salton Sea are currently under threat from planned diversions to coastal urban regions of California; and

WHEREAS there have recently been large-scale mortalities of birds (150,000 Eared Grebes in 1992, 1400 Brown Pelicans in 1996, many nesting Double-crested Cormorants in 1997) and millions of fish, all symptomatic of severe problems in the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS current attempts by agencies, NGOs, private concerns, and lawmakers to "save" the Salton Sea are gaining momentum, including engineering studies, Congressional legislation, and an Environmental Impact Statement together with a scientific review committee conducted by the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS there is no consensus on what is meant to restore or "save" the Salton Sea;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society recognize the significance of the Salton Sea to wildlife and support rehabilitation and conservation efforts for the Salton Sea that are responsive to the needs of wildlife and based on sound and thorough biological data; that recognize the importance of freshwater, delta, brackish, saline, and agricultural habitats at the Salton Sea; that improve water quality and guarantee continued adequate sources of freshwater; that stress the critical need for protection and isolation of waterbird colonies from human and other disturbance; and that seek to minimize threats to wildlife potentially resulting from urban and recreational development; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society support an approach that allows sufficient time to study the situation, including all feasible options, that any additional research funds are added to agency core budgets, that no money be spent on "emergency action" before a full environmental impact statement is completed, including studies of the impacts of brine or salt disposal from all pumped water, and that the implementation of whatever action be recommended must meet all environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act, and that judicial review of proposed actions be allowed without restraint.

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SNOW GOOSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS an exponentially growing population of lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) breeding along the border of Hudson Bay and migrating through mid-continental North America is overgrazing and over-grubbing its breeding habitat, causing changes in vegetation and soil salinity and threatening large portions of the Arctic ecosystem with potentially irreversible ecological degradation; and

WHEREAS plant species grubbed and eaten by the rapidly growing Snow Goose population in the Arctic are being destroyed to an unprecedented extent, and are being replaced over vast areas by unpalatable, salt-tolerant species; and

WHEREAS extensive scientific research on the effects of Snow Geese, including long-term exclosure experiments, suggests that their alteration of the biotic environment, especially plant community composition and structure, and the abiotic environment, especially soil chemistry, may be irreversible; and

WHEREAS long term studies show that populations of many bird species that depend on tundra habitat are declining precipitously as Snow Goose populations have grown and there is a concern that these declines may be linked to the growing Snow Goose population (these declining populations include species such as Hudsonian Godwit, Smith's Longspur, Yellow Rail, American Golden Plover, and Stilt Sandpiper, and a host of more widespread species with substantial numbers potentially at risk); and

WHEREAS the rapid increase in mid-continent Snow Goose populations is primarily a result of human modifications of habitat on the wintering grounds, along the migratory routes, and in the staging areas; and

WHEREAS the habitat modifications promoting population growth of Snow Geese include modern and large-scale agricultural practices throughout the non-breeding range, and these conditions are likely to persist for many decades; and

WHEREAS scientific evidence indicates that a continued growth of the mid-continent Snow Goose populations threatens the integrity of important wildlife habitat, including managed refuges, waterfowl wintering grounds, and key migratory resting and staging areas in the United States; and

WHEREAS density dependent population control mechanisms will not self-regulate the exponential population explosion of Snow Geese because of the species' demonstrated ability and willingness to extend both nesting and foraging ranges continually into new areas as the existing breeding grounds become degraded; and

WHEREAS the mortality of adult geese is viewed as the driving demographic variable by which humans can hope most effectively to reduce the total population, its rate of growth, and its effects on the environment; and

WHEREAS the 1997 report entitled "Arctic Ecosystems in Peril: Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group" has been published by the Arctic Goose Joint Venture (AGJV) Management Board and Working Group (under the auspices of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan), has received adequate peer review, and concludes with a series of specific recommendations to reduce Snow Goose numbers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society endorse the science-based recommendations of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group as necessary steps for reducing mid-continent Snow Goose numbers "to a level of about 50% of

current numbers by the year 2005" (1997, Arctic Ecosystems in Peril: Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group, p. 118); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society recommend that the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group and other appropriate organizations identify and develop solutions to the anthropogenic changes in environmental conditions that have led to the problem.

COMMUNICATION TOWERS AND AVIAN MORTALITY

WHEREAS an estimated two million to four million birds are killed in collisions with communication towers, particularly those higher than 200 feet, in eastern North America alone each year; and

WHEREAS towers 200 feet and taller are required to be lit for aircraft safety, generally with blinking lights; and

WHEREAS birds migrating at night are attracted by the light and circle the tower, striking supporting guy wires; and

WHEREAS there are presently at least 75,000 towers above 200 feet tall in the U.S. (according to the Federal Aviation Administration) and another 100,000 are expected to be constructed in the next decade (according to the communications industry) due to expansion in various communications markets, and to accommodate digital TV; and

WHEREAS the accrued impact of thousands of towers on migrant songbird populations may be significant for declining species such as Cerulean Warblers and endangered species such as Kirtland's Warbler;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to endorse studies involving experiments toward finding lighting systems for towers that reduce avian mortality; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society encourage the communications industry to voluntarily reduce the number of new towers by co-locating new transmitters on existing towers and to work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to minimize collisions of birds with towers; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society strongly encourage the USFWS to work with the FAA and the Federal Communications Commission to study the magnitude of the problem, including thorough preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, and to develop a national plan to minimize collisions of birds with towers.

DESIGN OR MODIFICATION OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES TO REDUCE COLLISIONS BY BIRDS

WHEREAS birds are often unable to recognize sheet glass as a barrier, and at least 100 million to a billion birds are killed each year in the United States alone by striking glass of various sizes, in all types of human-built structures, during every season; and

WHEREAS the lights in tall lighted structures such as those in multistory buildings are known to disorient and result in bird fatalities from colliding with windows and opaque walls; and

WHEREAS glass can be modified to transform it into barriers that birds can recognize and avoid; and

WHEREAS the enactment of a building policy of minimum night lighting, especially during migration, can markedly alleviate bird attraction and confusion around tall buildings and towers; and

WHEREAS the problem of collisions between birds and windows is ubiquitous, incremental, cumulative, insufficiently documented and not well recognized as to its magnitude or its parameters; and

WHEREAS there has been insufficient research on building design and placement, alternative materials, landscaping and other measures to minimize collisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as custodians of the nation's migratory bird resource, to make research related to bird-window collisions and their avoidance high on its priority list and to encourage the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey to carry out the needed research; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society encourage the American Bird Conservancy to undertake a campaign, similar to its "Cats Indoors" campaign to raise awareness of the issue and to work with glass manufacturers, architects, builders, developers, landscape planners, building managers and home owners to find ways to reduce the problem of unintentional killing of wild birds in collisions.

A brief discussion on the merits and disadvantages of "mega-meetings" such as the North American Ornithological Conference followed passage of the resolutions. As there was no other business brought to the floor, Ken Parkes moved and Ted Davis seconded that the second business meeting be adjourned. All in agreement, it happened at 12:12.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
1 July 1997 to 1 July 1998

GENERAL FUNDS

Balance Forward		$ 95,026.74
Receipts		
Regular and Sustaining Memberships	$ 31,850.00	
Student Memberships	$ 4,494.00	
Family Memberships	$ 186.00	
Total Dues		$ 36,530.00
Subscriptions	$ 26,350.00	
Newsletter	$ 244.80	
Back Issues	$ 399.00	
Page Charges	$ 18,033.50	
Total Income from Publications		$ 45,027.30
Contributions: Research Fund	$ 381.00	
Van Tyne Library	$ 717.00	
General Endowment	$ 88.00	
Life, Patrons (Gen Endowment)	$ 2,000.00	
Unrestricted	$ 1,025.00	
Total Contributions		$ 4,211.00
Royalties	$ 1,451.60	
Interest from Checking Account	$ 1,020.69	
Interest from Endowments	$ 24,937.90	
Dividends from Dreyfus Acct (reinvested)	$ 1,044.86	
Subtotal		$ 28,455.05
Miscellaneous		$ 552.00
Net OSNA Adjustment		$ (1,140.61)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		$113,634.74
Disbursements		
Bulletin Publication		
March 1997	$ 18,064.23	
June 1997	$ 16,825.66	
September 1997	$ 18,556.58	
December 1997	$ 22,550.50	
March 1998	$ 17,754.76	
Editorial expenses	$ 8,046.26	
Total Publication Costs		$101,797.99
OSNA Expenses	$ 9,702.00	
Flock	$ 187.15	
Officer's expenses	$ 869.67	
CPA (tax filing)	$ 430.00	
Incorporation fee	$ 5.00	
Editor's honorarium	$ 2,000.00	
Editor's travel	$ 500.00	
Nice speaker expenses 1997	$ 1,060.00	
Nice speaker expenses 1998	$ 830.34	
Plaque/Medal costs	$ 2,765.00	
Total Operating Expenses		$ 18,349.16
Organizational Awards	$ 3,000.00	
Ornithological Council Contribution	$ 1,000.00	
ABC & NABC Dues	$ 250.00	
Total Philanthropies		$ 4,250.00
SUBTOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		$124,397.15

Transfer to Mellon Account	$ 20,000.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	$144,397.15
Ending Balance	$ 64,264.33

CASH ACCOUNTS

First Source Bank Checking 1 July 1998	$ 42,601.19	
Dreyfus Liquid Assets 1 July 1998	$ 21,663.14	
Total Cash on Hand		$ 64,264.33
Van Tyne Library Accounts		
Starting Balance	$ 3,100.98	
Receipts	$ 963.59	
Expenses	$ 1,927.54	
Ending Balance		$ 2,137.03

SUTTON DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

Endowment Principal as of 1 July 1997	$ 66,357.54	
Increase in Principal Value 1996–1997	$ 79,931.00	
1997 Earnings*	$ 2,318.00	
Costs for Color Plates (3)	$ 3,007.03	
Balance		$ (689.03)

TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS

1996 Market Value	$676,029.00
1997 Market Value	$814,315.00
1998 Market Value (1 July 1998)	$968,838.00

* Based on 2.9% yield on Mellon account

Doris J. Watt, *Treasurer*

EDITOR'S REPORT—1997 (May–December)

Between 1 May and 31 December 1997, the editorial office of *The Wilson Bulletin* received 182 manuscripts including 17 that were forwarded by the previous editorial office with reviews. This is above the 10-year average of 175/year reported by Charles Blem, the previous editor, but similar to the 1996 total of 200 manuscripts. The acceptance rate was 42% for these manuscripts, slightly higher than the 36% for 1996. Most of manuscripts were returned to the authors with reviewers' comments within three months and many within two months. A few manuscripts required 4–6 months before a decision could be made about their acceptance; invariable because of difficulties in finding appropriate reviewers or obtaining reviews from delinquent reviewers. We have been using E-mail for much of the correspondence with authors and reviewers. This has resulted not only in monetary savings from postage, but also has resulted in faster turn around for manuscripts; in some cases the author received a decision within a month of submission.

As a result of the new format and page size of *The Wilson Bulletin,* the journal has gone from approximately 200 pages per issue to 150 pages. The current issues contain the same number of manuscript pages, figures, and tables as previous issues. Most of the difference in length is because many of the figures and tables require less space with the 2-column format than they did with the single column format. The result has been a savings in printing charges (estimated at $2000) to produce the journal. A second source of savings has been the use of electronic manuscript submission. All of the authors for the first two issues of volume 110 have provided disk or E-mail submission of their final manuscripts. Although it has made for more work by the editorial office to edit these files, the benefits to the society are cost savings of about $6.00 per page ($900 for the issue) and, more importantly, the retention of all the proof reading that has been invested into the manuscript.

I greatly appreciate the assistance of Charles Blem, the previous editor, for his advice and encouragement, especially during the early months of my editorship. Kathy G. Beal has provided timely advise on many manuscripts, especially those with difficult statistical problems. Editorial assistants Tara Baideme, Melanine Daniels, and Dante Thomas assisted in editing and checking many of the manuscripts that were accepted for publication. Tara Baideme provided much of the work in setting up the editorial office, tracking manuscripts, and correspondence. Tara Schuley and numer-

ous other people at Allen Press were extremely helpful in developing the new style for the journal. The State University of New York at Geneseo and the Biology Department continue to support the editor and the running of the editorial office in many ways. As a new editor, I especially welcome suggestions and feedback on how to improve service to the authors and the membership as a whole.

Robert C. Beason, *Editor*

The reports of the standing committees are as follows:

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The WOS Membership Committee consists of Laurie Goodrich at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Jim Ingold at Louisiana State University, Mark Woodrey at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Mary Clench of Gainesville, Florida, and myself, at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Laurie Goodrich continues to handle the arrangements for making the WOS recruitment poster available at ornithological meetings. This past year the poster was displayed at the WOS meeting in Manhattan, Kansas; the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and the Raptor Research Foundation meeting in Savannah, Georgia. At each venue WOS membership brochures are made available; our supply of brochures appears to be sufficient for another year.

Jim Ingold continues to contact nonmembers who make presentations at the annual meetings.

During the past year I received only a few letters from people interested in joining the WOS, and I responded to each by sending the WOS membership brochure and a personal letter of welcome to our society. Having completed my eighth year of chairing the Membership Committee, I have decided that this is an appropriate time to pass the reins on to a new chair. I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to participate in the society in this manner. I forwarded to President Burtt my nomination of Laurie Goodrich to be the new committee chair, as she has been doing the committee's heavy lifting (literally) for the past two years. I am pleased that she will begin her duties as chair at the 1998 annual meeting. The Membership Committee will be in very good hands.

John A. Smallwood, *Chair*

REPORT OF THE JOSSELYN VAN TYNE MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Another year in the long history of the Society has, as usual, meant a year of hard word and steady advances for the Library. As committee chairman, now for nearly four decades (since 1958), I must confess to my own increasingly small part in the real operations. Fortunately for us all, there has been a succession of excellent people at the library, all employees of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, to carry the load—and, most especially, for many years now, the indefatigable Janet Hinshaw, who I trust will remain in charge for many more years to come. With this report, it is time for me to step down. The "ravages of time" are accumulating, and the committee chairmanship certainly stands to gain from some fresh energy and ideas. I have greatly enjoyed these many years, which seem all too short.

It is obvious that the J. V. T. Library, like all other progressive organizations today, is getting more and more into the computer era. All the record-keeping can be facilitated, and all lists and figures kept potentially up to date and always accurate—but people still have to do it. In addition, Janet has been devoting a lot of time and thought to our growing "web page" (http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/wos.html). Being added to the growing body of information are such embellishments as portraits and appropriate art work. There seems no limit, and only time can tell how extensive will be our contacts, and with what varied audiences. Appreciation is due again to Maricel Fuentes for her period of yeoman secretarial help. At present, she is being replaced as Bird Division Secretary by Joann Constantinides; there is much to learn and much to do.

The following itemized list of transactions for 1997, under our customary headings shows perhaps some small drop-off from recent years.

Donations were received from 14 members: Academic Press (through a request from E. Urban), C. Blem, C. Braun, E. Greij (for *Birder's World*), J. Hinshaw, D. Klem, M. Kielb, L. Kiff (for The Peregrine Fund), T. Nowicki, J. Pinowski, S. Sealy, J. Spendelow, C. Swift, and R. Whiting. These totaled 15 books, 781 journal issues, 709 reprints, and 4 dissertations. In addition, a bequest from Helen Lapham contained approximately 860 books, and 12 boxes of journals and reprints.

Trades with other institutions involved: 3 volumes of *The Auk* to Jan Pinowsky, Institute of Ecology in Poland, for a book; and 7 books to The Peregrine Fund for various publications.

Library Loans: 80 transactions to 57 people, made up of 275 items, including photocopies.

Publications Received: totaled 210 titles from 175 organizations and individuals. These figures include exchanges of 158 journals and reprints, from 123 organizations; subscriptions to 28 titles, from 22 organizations and outright gifts of 34 titles, from 30 individuals and organizations.

Books and Other Items Sold: included 9 books and 415 journal issues, and brought in $499.00.

Purchases of items desired by our library (from the rotating New Book Fund): included 1 book, 1 dissertation, current regular subscriptions, and appropriate back issues under 9 titles, for a total of $501.12.

Only when all these transactions, and their cash values, are considered together, and over a period of years, does it become apparent how worthwhile the Library activities have become—not only from the standpoints of the Society and of its participating members, but in a much broader view, in relation to

ornithology the world over. The Committee appreciates all that is being done, by all parties, and continues to encourage a greater total effort by the membership. Every bit helps!

William A. Lunk, *Chair*

REPORT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The mission of the Committee on Undergraduate Outreach is to stimulate an interest in ornithology among undergraduate students, and to help to maintain and focus that interest so as to stimulate students to continue studies in ornithology. The Committee explores ways to increase interest in ornithology both as a focus for future postgraduate studies, and as an avocation for those in fields other than the biological sciences. Members of the committee during 1997–98 are, alphabetically: Albert R. (Jay) Buckelew, Jr., Department of Biology, Bethany College, Bethany, WV; Edward H. Burtt, Jr., Department of Zoology, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH; Dale Kennedy, Biology Department, Albion College, Albion, MI; Lynn A. Mahaffy, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA; Ernest J. Willoughby, Department of Biology, St. Mary's College of Maryland; and W. Herbert Wilson, Department of Biology, Colby College, Waterville, ME.

From April 1997 through February 1998 the Committee on Undergraduate Outreach engaged in the following activities:

1. With the help of Janet Hinshaw, the "Guide to Graduate Programs in Ornithology" is now posted on the WOS web page. The Committee is in the process of gathering additions and revisions, and plans to update the document at least once a year.
2. Drs. Burtt and Wilson have revised their report on the survey of undergraduate ornithology courses in North America, and submitted it to editor Robert Beason for consideration for publication in *The Wilson Bulletin*. This paper grew out of a project that began as a survey of undergraduate ornithology courses in North America done in 1993 and presented as part of the "Symposium on Undergraduate Outreach" at the meeting in Guelph, Ontario.
3. Dr. Burtt has organized another workshop on teaching undergraduate ornithology. Its title is "Management of Ornithological Collections at Teaching Institutions and Nature Centers," which is to be presented during this annual meeting.
4. Dr. Burtt has compiled laboratory exercises that were presented during teaching workshops at the previous two annual meetings, and with John Faaborg is editing these for publication as an undergraduate ornithology laboratory manual.
5. Dr. Buckelew continues to monitor changing regulations governing salvage of bird skins for teaching collections.
6. Drs. Kennedy and Mahaffy are investigating issues relating to making and lending videotaped interviews with eminent ornithologists for educational purposes.

Ernest Willoughby, *Chair*

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Scope and Weaknesses of CITES in Protecting Endangered Birds

Just as the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is the national "law of the land" that protects endangered species in the United States, CITES is the world-wide "law of the land" that we often look to to provide protection for endangered species around the world. CITES, an acronym for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, is an international treaty which was drawn up under United Nations sponsorship in 1973. CITES came into force in 1975 when the United States and 17 other nations became parties to it. As of January 1, 1998, 143 of the world's nations have agreed to its provisions. CITES lists endangered plant and animal species in two "Appendices." Appendix I species are those threatened with extinction. Appendix II species include ones not necessarily yet in danger of extinction, but ones that could easily become so unless trade is strictly regulated. Species similar to critically threatened species are included in these appendices solely because of that similarity as a precaution to protect their troubled look-alikes. A third Appendix also lists species of concern at the request of individual nations, but species on this list are not considered "endangered"; rather they are ones the listing nations want to exercise more local control over.

As an accessory to CITES, in 1976, IUCN-The World Conservation Union established TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) to monitor and report on world-wide trade in wild plants and animals. Thus, CITES provides the framework for international cooperation in stemming illegal trade in endangered species, and TRAFFIC monitors both legal and illegal trade, essentially providing an early warning system for excessive trade and data which can be used to bring sanctions against those who do not comply with CITES.

Very importantly, CITES, as an international legal tool, is limited in its scope to international trade in endangered species. As an international law protecting endangered species, CITES has many problems, including the following which I summarize here.

1. Listing of a species on Appendix I of CITES has sometimes driven up black-market prices, encouraging more poaching and "stockpiling" of endangered birds such as Hyacinth Macaws.
2. CITES has no enforcement authority; enforcement of the treaty depends on passage and enforcement of laws by each party nation.
3. Decisions as to whether a species should be listed or removed from Appendix I or II are made on the

basis of both political and scientific information—not necessarily on the basis of the best biology.

4. CITES focuses on international trade, whereas a considerable trade goes on within nations.
5. Habitat destruction and other factors resulting in species losses are not considered by CITES.
6. Listing of a species on Appendix I for some populations and on Appendix II for other populations encourages "laundering" of individuals from the endangered population through labeling them as being from the less threatened population.
7. Trade in parts of animals creates many problems because of the inability of officials to distinguish parts of an endangered species from parts of a non-endangered species. This is relevant for birds in that there is a considerable trade in viable eggs of endangered birds and it is difficult to impossible for unhatched eggs of some endangered parrots, for example, to be identified to species by authorities at border crossings.

The future role of CITES in protecting endangered species is heavily debated within the conservation and scientific communities. Organizations such as the Humane Society International argue that by its very nature CITES promotes trade in endangered species, while others such as the World Wildlife Fund argue that CITES places too much emphasis on limiting trade and not enough on promoting it.

We are at a crossroads today in dealing with endangered species on an international level. More of the world has joined in the paper battle to protect endangered species, but getting meaningful actions is becoming more complex. We need a global legal platform for protecting species from habitat loss and a host of other problems, but can't even agree on how to stem illegal international trade. Two very different approaches are proposed for protecting endangered species from illegal international trade.

One, championed by the World Wildlife Fund and IUCN, would legalize trade as a way to deter illegal trade and to conserve the species. One proponent of trade defined conservation as "the saving of living natural resources for use," arguing essentially that species should "pay their own way." Trade is the "carrot" that is supposed to entice people to voluntarily want to protect the resource.

An alternative, championed by the Humane Society International, seeks to protect endangered species from use. Advocates of this approach argue that if any trade is allowed, illegal trade would be impossible to control. A non-avian example supports this view. In 1997, lifting of the ban on international trade in ivory was anticipated and there was an immediate and substantial increase in poaching of elephants.

One of the buzz concepts of our era is "sustainable use," yet we do not have even the most rudimentary understanding of the nature of interactions between and among most species and their natural environments. Non-consumptive uses, such as eco-tourism and wildlife photography, can benefit endangered species and foster the protection of their habitats, but these do not offer the high short-term economic potential of consumptive exploitation. The international protection of endangered species by CITES or any other agreement among nations is not merely a conservation problem, but a host of economic and ethical problems linked to human population growth and standard of living. We are among the "haves"—having destroyed or drastically altered much of the natural environment of North America to gain the lifestyle we enjoy. The greatest biodiversity in the world lies in the custody of the "have nots"—who have difficulty understanding why they shouldn't follow our example of exploitation.

The answers are not easy, but clearly education and understanding are essential. In the arena of international trade, the purview of CITES, one lesson might be gained from the feather trade of a century ago. In the late 1800s, the feathers of herons and egrets were sometimes worth more than their weight in gold as adornments for ladies hats. Poaching was rampant when laws were passed to regulate hunting, leading to the near extinction of some species. Only through education and changing the attitudes of the common man were we able to bring about enforceable local and national laws and international treaties. When feathers were no longer in vogue, there was no longer a demand, and there was no longer a trade.

The problems are complex and the potential speed of change in a species population has been enhanced by technology. There is hope for many endangered birds, but hard decisions—perhaps different ones for different species—must be made. In the international arena we have political and cultural, as well as ecological, bridges to cross to protect endangered birds. In short, CITES is a very narrow path leading to those bridges and unless its scope is broadened we may not always find our way.

Jerome A. Jackson, *Chair*

The list of papers and posters presented at the meeting and the list of those in attendance will be published in a supplement to *The Auk,* volume 115 (1998).